

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 15745

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XG, CSCE, NATO, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET MEDIA LINE ON POST-CSCE EUROPE

1. SUMMARY. IZVESTIYA OCT 30 CLEARLY REITERATES AND
EXPANDS ON LINE ESPOUSED BY BREZHNEV DURING GISCARD VISIT
AND EARLIER AT HELSINKI, I.E., DETENTE DOES NOT PRECLUDE
CONTINUING "IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE"--QUITE THE CONTRARY.

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END SUMMARY.

2. M. MIKHAILOV, WRITING IN IZVESTIYA OCTOBER 30, POUNCES ON AN ARTICLE IN AN UNSPECIFIED EDITION OF NOUVELLES ATLANTIQUES WHICH ALLEGEDLY CONTENDED THAT THE POST-HELSINKI PERIOD HAS BEEN A TIME DURING WHICH THE WEST HAS BEEN DISCARDING ILLUSIONS (REGARDING EITHER THE DETENTE PROCESS OR CSCE--MIKHAILOV IS VAGUE). HE SUGGESTS THAT "NATO CIRCLES" ARE PURPOSELY IGNORING THE "CONCRETE RESULTS" IN THE DIRECTION OF "MATERIALIZATION OF DETENTE" ACHIEVED DURING THE POST-CSCE VISITS OF KEKKONEN, COSTA GOMES AND GISCARD TO MOSCOW. HE ADDS THAT, OF COURSE, IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT DURING THE COURSE OF THE COOPERATION BROUGHT ABOUT DURING SUCH VISITS, "SPECIAL FEATURES WHICH STEM FROM CLASS DIFFERENCES CANNOT BE DISCARDED...DETENTE, AS IT SHOULD BE CLEAR TO ALL, DOES NOT CANCEL OUT THE STRUGGLE OF IDEAS." MIKHAILOV ACCUSES NOUVELLES ATLANTIQUES OF ONLY FEIGNING SURPRISE AT THIS "OBJECTIVE FACTOR" OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, FOR, HE SAYS, THE GENTLEMEN OCCUPYING RESPONSIBLE POSITIONS IN NATO HAVE LONG KNOWN THAT PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE PRESUPPOSES NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

3. COMMENT. SOVIET MEDIA CONTINUE DEFENSIVE IN FACE OF WESTERN CSCE BACKLASH, BUT THE TONE IS FIRMING UP FOLLOWING THE GISCARD VISIT, AND WE WOULD EXPECT THE SOVIETS TO BE SATISFIED WITH SOMETHING LIKE THE MIKHAILOV LINE, WHICH WAS OF COURSE ALSO ENUNCIATED BY BREZHNEV IN HIS OCTOBER 15 TOAST TO GISCARD, AT LEAST UNTIL THE EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTY CONFERENCE, AND PROBABLY UNTIL THE CPUS CONGRESS IN FEBRUARY. WITHIN EACH TERM OF THE BALANCE THERE IS AMPLE ROOM FOR PULLING, HAULING AND CONFLICTING SIGNALS: HOW SPECIFICALLY TO TREAT THE UPCOMING VISITS OF SCHEEL AND LEONE, HOW SERIOUSLY TO TAKE THE CRISIS OF CAPITALISM, HOW TO HANDLE THE ISSUE OF REVOLUTIONARY TACTICS IN THE WEST. THEY TIP THE BALANCE IN ONE OR ANOTHER DIRECTION AS CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRE, BUT THE TERMS THEMSELVES APPEAR TO BE SET. END COMMENT.
MATLOCK

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